

ASUNCION DECLARATION “GUIDELINES TOWARDS A REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK 2015-2030”

FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030 IN THE AMERICAS Asuncion, Paraguay

9 June 2016

1. We, Ministers and High Level Authorities responsible for the implementation and follow-up actions and policies to reduce disaster risk in the Americas, attending the First Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, held on 8-9 June 2016 in Asuncion, Paraguay;
2. Considering the Fourth Session of the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in 2014 and other intergovernmental meetings on disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction celebrated in the Americas region after the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.¹
3. Whereas the Sendai Framework considers that “In order progress towards eradicating poverty, reducing inequality and achieving sustainable and inclusive development, it is necessary to assess progress and challenges in implementing disaster risk management policies at all territorial and sectoral levels and suggest the necessary adjustments of the post-2015 Framework for Action”.

¹ Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 2030

4. Reaffirming that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, provides the necessary elements for a comprehensive approach towards disaster risk reduction as an integral part of the advances towards sustainable development, as per the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda².

We hereby declare that:

5. We *present* the Guidelines towards a Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas 2015-2030;

6. We *call* on the intergovernmental bodies in the region specialized in disaster risk reduction, to align their policies, frameworks, strategies, plans and programmes with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in support of their member countries;

7. We recognize the necessity *that our* governments, together with other relevant stakeholder according to their respective mandates, to widely disseminate strategies at regional, national, sub-national and local level, properly aligned with the Sendai Framework and prioritize their cross-cutting implementation, with respect to national legislation;

8. We *urge* regional and sub-regional intergovernmental bodies to support countries in the development of a Regional Action Plan for the Americas, based on the Guidelines, enclosed herewith, for its

² Approved by the United Nations General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/1

adoption in the process towards the V Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, hosted by the Government of Canada in 2017.

9. We *highlight* the importance of finding intergovernmental modalities for the preparation of the Regional Plan of Action towards its approval during the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas 2015-2030.

10. We *welcome* the celebration of the V Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to take place in Mexico from the 22 to 26 of May 2017, an event that will serve to enhance the implementation of the Sendai Framework considering the inputs of the V Session of the Regional Platform of the Americas.

11. We *take* note of the work of the various sessions and panels of the First Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas 2015-2030;

12. We *urge* countries, according to national capacities, to enhance, include and integrate disaster risk reduction considerations into national and sub-national policies and programmes in order to ensure the sustainability of development gains, while protecting people, communities, countries, livelihoods, health, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience;

#SendaiAmericas

8 y 9 de Junio, 2016 | Asunción, Paraguay

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13. We *reaffirm* the need to enhance the Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas as one of the mechanisms for the follow-up of the regional implementation of the Sendai Framework;

14. We *celebrate* the organization of the First Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas 2015-2030.

15. We deeply *thank* the Government and people of Paraguay for their hospitality and generosity in receiving all the participants attending this Ministerial Meeting held in the City of Asuncion, as well as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction for the support provided in organizing the meeting, and the governments and organizations that have contributed to it.

GUIDELINES FOR AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030 IN THE AMERICAS

JUNE 2016

In order to advance the implementation of the Sendai Framework in the Americas, it is important to take the following guidelines into account:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk

Level	Action
Regional	<p>Develop and disseminate knowledge and information on disaster risk to inform decision-making, including international cooperation issues.</p> <p>Enhance and strengthen dialogue and cooperation, with respect to disaster risk reduction and management, between decision makers and planning entities with scientific and technological communities and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Promote the development of comprehensive multi-hazard disaster risk studies, assessments and maps which includes climate change projections, using existing national information as basis in order to complement existing systems and platforms in each country, thus promoting resilience.</p>
National	<p>Develop, update and disseminate, as appropriate, information on disaster risk, to manage sectoral policies and development planning, including land use planning.</p>

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Contribute to the training of government officials and other relevant stakeholders at all levels through experience sharing and capacity development on disaster risk reduction.

Develop assessments and analyses to strengthen disaster risk knowledge for the protection of life and assets, in order to significantly reduce disaster risk in all sectors and the disruption of basic services.

Enhance the preparation, standardization, dissemination and access to science-based methodologies and tools in order to identify, locate, register, assess, manage and follow-up disaster risk reduction.

Strengthen national, sub-national and local capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and management.

Promote the participation of communities, as appropriate, in disaster risk assessment, understanding and management.

Record, assess and communicate systematically and publicly, following national practices, the potential loss and damage caused by disasters.

Provide coordination spaces for the various levels of government to strengthen the development of disaster risk reduction.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk

Level	Action
Regional	<p>Align frameworks, strategies and programmes of specialized intergovernmental bodies, with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, in support of their member countries.</p> <p>Establish mechanisms for the exchange of good practices, lessons learned and experiences among the countries of the Americas; and strengthen existing international cooperation programmes in this area.</p>
National	<p>Update, develop or improve policies, regulatory frameworks, strategies, plans, programmes and activities for disaster risk reduction as per the recommendations of the Sendai Framework and integrate them into development planning instruments.</p> <p>Promote the strengthening of capacities of national, sub-national and local government for disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Promote the adoption of a set of progress indicators related to the implementation of the Sendai Framework in accordance with, among others and as appropriate, the provisions of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group for the definition of indicators and terminology of the Sendai Framework.</p> <p>Promote the permanent follow-up of disaster risk management by relevant authorities.</p>

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience

Level	Action
Regional	<p>Share good practices on methodologies and knowledge on disaster risk transfer and financial and social protection mechanisms.</p> <p>Encourage the participation of the ministries of economy and finance and planning in cooperation mechanisms such as the Latin American Network for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, among others.</p> <p>Strengthen the exchange of experiences and knowledge about building codes as a means for disaster risk management.</p>
National	<p>Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2030, through:</p> <p>Increase allocation of resources, as appropriate, according to the strengthening of international cooperation programmes and taking into account national priorities and legislations, for investment in disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Integrate disaster-risk assessment criteria in public investment planning processes, through a process of inter-agency work.</p>

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for an effective response and “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction

Level	Action
Regional	Promote the exchange of tools, knowledge, and technologies, including traditional ones, among regional and sub-regional mechanisms and networks, for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, recovery and reconstruction.
National	<p>Significantly increase the availability and access to multi-hazard early warning systems.</p> <p>Create and/or strengthen disaster risk management centres as decision-making tools in support of governments for prevention, mitigation, preparation, response, recovery and reconstruction, as well as for first responders in case of disasters.</p> <p>Strengthen community capacity and participation, as appropriate, in the early response to disasters.</p> <p>Strengthen the articulation of preparedness, effective response and disaster recovery and reconstruction planning.</p>